

## **Tewksbury Recycling Committee**

Meeting Notes from Monday, October 20, 2014

Meeting Location: Tewksbury Public Library, Time: 6:00 pm

The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm

**In Attendance:** Loretta Ryan, Toby Sedgwick, Jae Gray, Pamela Meroski, Sandy Barbeau

**Meeting Minutes:** The minutes of the 8/6/2014 meeting were voted on and accepted. Loretta to send info to Toby about procedure for posting at Town Hall.

### **Reports:**

Financial update: postponed until next meeting

Battery Recycling Program: Sandy collected batteries today. Another box has been filled and shipped today. Three boxes are left, so a request will be made to Town Manager Richard Montuori for more boxes.

### **Unfinished Business:**

Membership Drive: Keep trying to recruit new members. A friend of Loretta's may come to next meeting. Seeking potential 'junior' members possibly from TMHS

### **Zero Waste Day:**

100 more cars than last year. 598 tallied, but probably over 600 since a few didn't fill out sign in slip. Still awaiting complete final stats from the drop off stations.

Pam met with Gunther Wellerstein at Lowell's ZWD, which was same day as ours.

Theirs wasn't as well advertised. In future, would like to try to cross-promote

Other changes planned for 2015:

- Info posters on cones along driveway, include info about Hazardous Waste on first cone near Main Street.

- Info sheet in bags with Hazardous Waste disposal info

Tote Bags cost over \$1000. Recycling Committee covered \$700 of cost. The remaining \$400 was paid for by other means. There are plans to establish Zero Waste Day as a non-profit organization. Then ZWD can apply for grants to cover cost of materials and items needed for future events.

There were 14 Business Sponsors who were matched with a Charitable Organization. Each business supplied a check for \$250 to each Organization. Trying to match sponsors with a compatible station and promote year-round support.

**Date set for ZWD in 2015: September 26, 2015**

### **Recycling Toters /Correspondence Action:**

Many emails with issues and complaints about new recycling toters. Currently out of toters. Some requests to swap 35 gal for 96 gal and requests for extras. Huge amount of old recycling bins and barrels left at Town Hall. Not sure if these were recycled or not. Also some success stories about residents happy with the ease of recycling without sorting.

### **New Business:**

Festival of Trees: need ideas and someone to spearhead decorations. Tree is in shed at DPW.

Media Submissions: Pam- low traffic on Facebook page. Would be ideal to have a point person for media. Pam will try to increase our group's message with info and updates. Miriam Gross contacted Loretta and commented that our page on the town website needs revision. Message forwarded to Jeanine Tamboli as she can assist with this issue.

### **Open Discussion:**

Future Household Hazardous Waste Day? Aim for one/year. But possible cost is \$20,000 so would need to charge people fee for dropping off items. Will contact LouAnn at Dept. of Public Health to get involved too. Perhaps TMHS students could volunteer.

Consider having a spring event to collect textiles and Styrofoam.

November 15 is National Recycling Day. Maybe send out a message to try to promote facebook page and get more 'likes.'

Pam spoke with Environmental Science teacher at TMHS. There is interest in coordinating a project together. She will also investigate displaying posters from contest at the library. Jae suggested having another contest, but the last time there was a lack of enthusiasm.

All voted in favor of staying in positions until June election:

Loretta Ryan: chair

Sandy Barbeau: vice-chair

Toby: newly elected to clerk

Jae Gray and Pam Meroski: members

Meeting Adjourned at 6:58pm

**Next meeting: Monday, November 17, 6pm @ Town Library Meeting Room**

